

1345.4 - SA Stats, Mar 2010

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 30/03/2010

Summary

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Feature Articles

NEW this month - Burial and cremation trends in South Australia

Analyses current burial and cremation trends and finds that even if the gradual shift to cremations were to continue, South Australia's projected population growth could put pressure on cemetery space.



Demography

Includes: **Estimated resident population, Components of population change**

South Australia's population increased by 20,900 during the year ended 30 September 2009.



Labour Force

Includes: **Contents, Employed persons, Unemployment, Participation rate**

Trend unemployment rate for South Australia lowest since mid 2008.



Incomes

Includes: **Average weekly earnings**

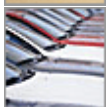
In the year ended November 2009 average weekly full time earnings in South Australia grew by 2.9% compared to 5.6% nationally.



State Accounts

Includes: **State accounts, Household final consumption expenditure (HFCE)**

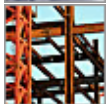
Household final consumption expenditure in SA increases slightly in the December quarter 2009.



Consumption

Includes: **Retail trade, New motor vehicle sales**

South Australian retail sales growth strongest in the nation.



Investment

Includes: **Private new capital expenditure, Mineral and petroleum exploration expenditure**

Exploration expenditure on Copper and Uranium accounts for two thirds of all exploration expenditure in South Australia in the December quarter 2009.



Construction

Includes: **Building approvals, Construction work done**

Dwelling unit approvals in South Australia rise for the sixth consecutive month.



Price Indexes

Includes: **Contents, Consumer price index, Wage price index, House price index**

South Australian wage price index increases 0.6% in the December quarter 2009.



Housing Finance

Includes: **Housing finance commitments**

Average home loan in South Australia 20% smaller than the Australian average.



International Merchandise Trade

Includes: **Exports and Imports**

South Australian exports fall almost 30% in January 2010.



Water

Includes: **Rainfall, Reservoir levels**

South Australian summer 2009-10 delivers above average temperatures and variable rainfall

In this issue

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE	Release Date
April 2010	27 April 2010
May 2010	25 May 2010
June 2010	29 June 2010
July 2010	27 July 2010
August 2010	31 August 2010
September 2010	28 September 2010

WHAT'S NEW THIS MONTH

Topics which have been updated with new data in this month's issue of **SA Stats** include: Construction; Consumption; Demography; Housing Finance; Incomes; International Merchandise Trade; Investment; Labour Force; Price Indexes; State Accounts; and Water.

This month's **SA Stats** includes an article on Burial and cremation trends in South Australia. The South Australian government expects the metropolitan population to increase by over half a million people in the next 30 years. This will put pressure on land availability and may also affect the future requirements for cemetery development.

INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or James Inglis on Adelaide (08) 8237 7405, or email sa.statistics@abs.gov.au.

Feature Articles



FEATURE ARTICLES

2010

Mar 2010	Burial and cremation trends in South Australia
Feb 2010	The new Australian Statistical Geography Standard
Jan 2010	Houses in South Australia: The cost of building a dream

2009

Dec 2009	International Students in South Australia
Nov 2009	Perceptions of Crime and Safety in South Australia
Oct 2009	Who's Not in the Labour Force?
Sep 2009	One parent families with dependent children in South Australia
Aug 2009	Heating and Cooling

Jul 2009	What are South Australians Studying?
Jun 2009	Water Efficiency in South Australia's Vineyards
May 2009	Journey to Work in the City of Adelaide
Apr 2009	Housing Finance - First Home Buyers and Other Borrowers
Feb 2009	Recent Increases in South Australia's Fertility
Jan 2009	South Australian Household Final Consumption Expenditure
2008	
Dec 2008	Energy Consumption in South Australia
Nov 2008	Adelaide's Population Turnover
Oct 2008	Contributors to Adelaide's Price Rises
Sep 2008	<u>Adelaide's Suburbs of Advantage and Disadvantage</u>
Aug 2008	South Australia's Agriculture Industry
July 2008	<u>New Dwelling Approvals in South Australia</u>
May 2008	<u>Literacy of South Australians</u>
April 2008	<u>South Australia's Migrant Population</u>
	<u>South Australia's Ageing Population and the Labour Force</u>
Feb 2008	<u>South Australia's Mining Industry</u>
	<u>Water Supply in South Australia</u>
Jan 2008	<u>Labour Force Underutilisation and the Underemployed in South Australia</u>
	<u>Water Use in Agriculture - A South Australian Perspective</u>
2007	
Nov 2007	<u>Sports Attendance in South Australia</u>
	<u>Recorded Crime - Victims, South Australia, 2006</u>
Oct 2007	<u>Attendance at Cultural Venues and Events by South Australians</u>
Aug 2007	<u>Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities - South Australia, 2006</u>
Jul 2007	<u>South Australia's big picture: Census highlights the changes in South Australian society</u>
	<u>Participation in Sports and Physical Recreation Activities - South Australia</u>
May 2007	<u>Health of South Australians - Body Mass</u>
	<u>Household Use of the Internet in South Australia</u>
Apr 2007	<u>Employment in the Retail Trade Industry in South Australia</u>
	<u>River Murray - South Australia</u>
Mar 2007	<u>Household Waste Management in South Australia</u>
Feb 2007	<u>Births - South Australia</u>
Jan 2007	<u>Gross Domestic Product and Gross State Product</u>
2006	
Dec 2006	<u>Rainfall in South Australia, South Australian Reservoirs, Water Consumption</u>
Nov 2006	<u>Health of South Australians - Health related actions</u>
Oct 2006	<u>National Regional Profile - New Release, New Features</u>
Sep 2006	<u>Fuel Production and Consumption, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Land Use Change and Forestry</u>
Aug 2006	<u>Health of South Australians - Health Risk Behaviours</u>
	<u>The South Australian Grape Industry</u>
Jul 2006	<u>Use of IT By Australian Businesses</u>
	<u>Household use of the Internet in South Australia</u>
May 2006	<u>Health of South Australians - Health Status</u>
Apr 2006	<u>International Trade in Services</u>
	<u>International Students in South Australia</u>
Feb 2006	<u>Labour Force and Other Characteristics of Migrants in South Australia</u>
Jan 2006	<u>Survey of work in selected Culture & Leisure Activities</u>
2005	
Nov 2005	<u>Household Income in South Australia</u>
	<u>Household Expenditure in South Australia</u>
Oct 2005	<u>SA Business and Innovation</u>

Demography



DEMOGRAPHY

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION

The estimated resident population (ERP) for South Australia was 1,629,500 at 30 September 2009, an increase of about 20,900 persons (1.3%) since 30 September 2008. Nationally, the ERP was 22,065,700 at 30 September 2009, an increase of about 451,900 persons (2.1%) since 30 September 2008.

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, Preliminary data

	Population at end September quarter 2009 '000	Change over previous year '000	Change over previous year %
New South Wales	7 165.4	117.0	1.7
Victoria	5 473.3	117.9	2.2
Queensland	4 450.4	115.2	2.7
South Australia	1 629.5	20.9	1.3
Western Australia	2 259.5	64.3	2.9
Tasmania	504.4	5.0	1.0
Northern Territory	227.0	5.1	2.3
Australian Capital Territory	353.6	6.5	1.9
Australia(a)	22 065.7	451.9	2.1

(a) Includes Other Territories comprising Jervis Bay Territory, Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.
Source: Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0).

In 2007-08, the South Australian Statistical Division (SD) with the largest percentage increase in ERP was Outer Adelaide (2.0%) followed by Adelaide (1.1%).

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION(a), By Statistical Division, South Australia

	2007		2008	
	Population at 30 June '000	Change over previous year %	Population at 30 June '000	Change over previous year %
Adelaide	1 159.1	1.2	1 172.1	1.1
Outer Adelaide	131.4	2.1	134.1	2.0
Yorke and Lower North	45.9	1.0	46.4	1.0
Murray Lands	69.8	0.5	70.1	0.4
South East	64.9	0.6	65.4	0.8
Eyre	35.0	0.5	35.2	0.5
Northern	79.6	0.7	80.1	0.6
South Australia	1 585.8	1.1	1 603.4	1.1

(a) Estimates for 2007 are revised to align with new 2007 state and territory totals and estimates for 2008 are preliminary.

Source: Regional Population Growth, Australia 2007-08 (cat. no. 3218.0).

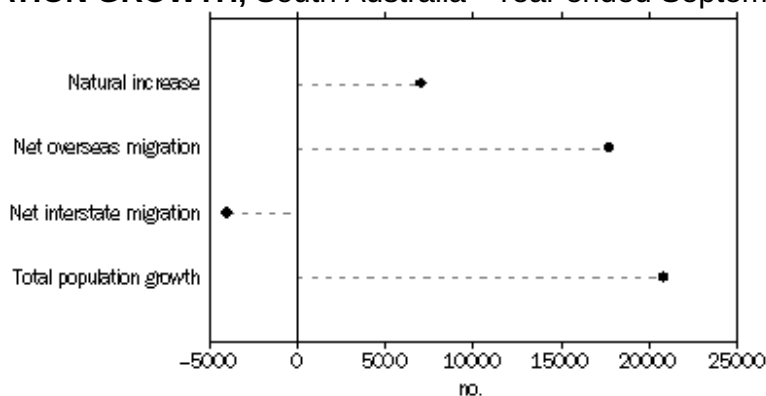
[Map of South Australia's Statistical Divisions](#)(PDF 2.44MB)

COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE

For the year ended 30 September 2009, South Australia recorded a natural increase (i.e. the net of births and deaths) of 7,076 persons. Net overseas migration provided a gain of 17,732 persons in the same period while net interstate migration realised a loss of 3,952 persons.

For the year ended 30 September 2009, Australia recorded a natural increase in population of 154,507 persons; net overseas migration resulted in a gain of 297,369 people.

POPULATION GROWTH, South Australia - Year ended September 2009



Source: Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0)

Labour Force



LABOUR FORCE

CONTENTS

[Employed persons](#)

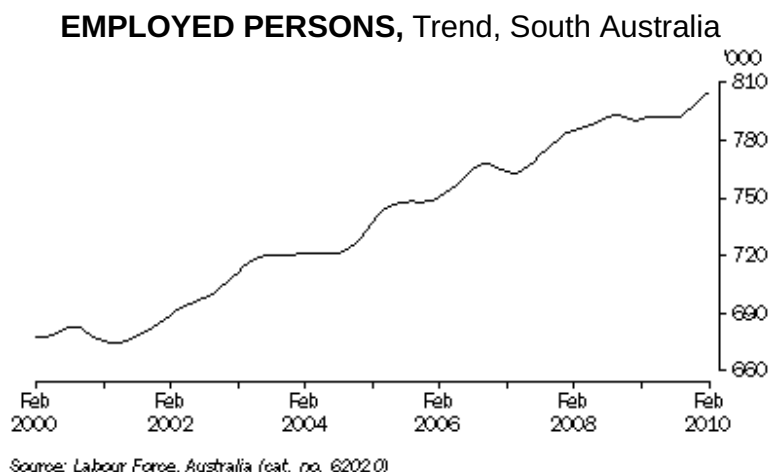
[Unemployment](#)

[Participation rate](#)

EMPLOYED PERSONS

In trend terms, the total number of persons employed in South Australia in February 2010 (805,100) was 1.8% higher than the estimate for February 2009 (790,900) with most of the

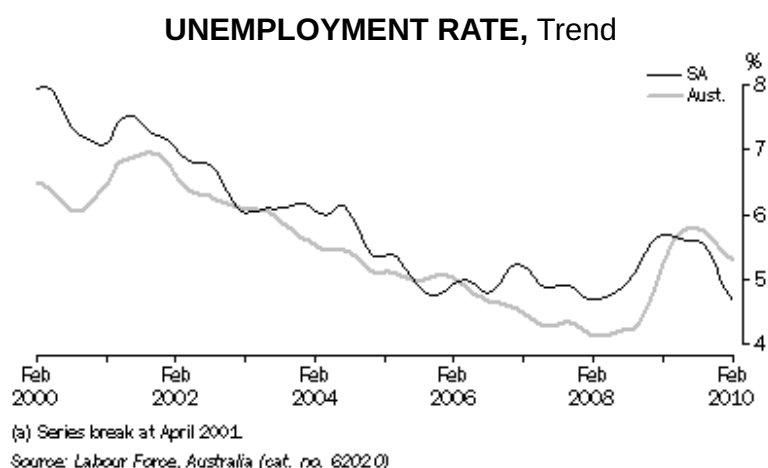
increase occurring in the last six months. The total number of persons employed in Australia in February 2010 was 10,971,600, an increase of 1.7% on the number employed in February 2009 (10,787,200).



The number of males employed full-time in South Australia in February 2010 was 355,600 (in trend terms); a 0.5% increase from the previous month (353,800). Looking at the composition of all male employees, those working full-time accounted for 81.1% of the male workforce, down from 84.3% in February 2009. The number of females employed full-time increased slightly to be 182,400 in February 2010. Despite increasing for the last 4 months, the estimate remains 1.7% below the peak recorded in May 2009 (185,500). At that time full-time female employees accounted for 49.9% of the female workforce. In February 2010, this proportion was 49.7%.

UNEMPLOYMENT

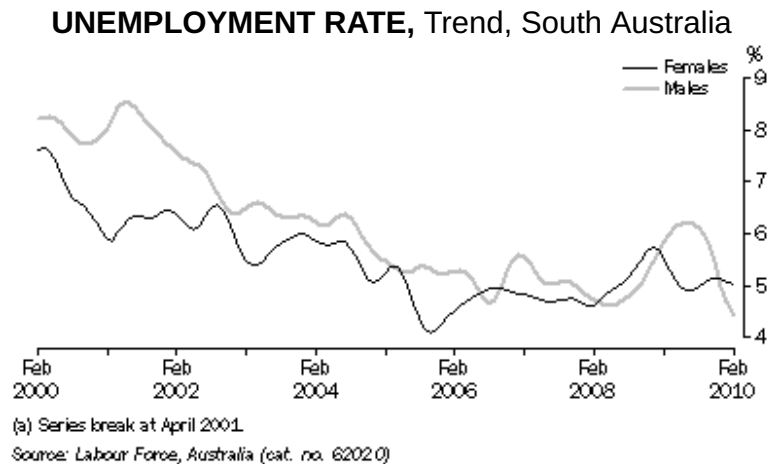
The trend estimate unemployment rate for South Australia fell to 4.7% in February 2010; the lowest level since July 2008. Australian unemployment fell marginally to 5.3% for the same period. South Australia's unemployment rate has been lower than the national rate since May 2009.



Having peaked at 6.2% in the middle of 2009, the trend unemployment rate for males in South Australia has fallen by 1.8 percentage points to be 4.4% in February 2010. This eclipses the previous low of 4.6% recorded in May 2008 and, for the third month running, sees the unemployment estimate for South Australian males lower than that for females. The recent trend unemployment rate for South Australian females has fallen slightly in each of the past

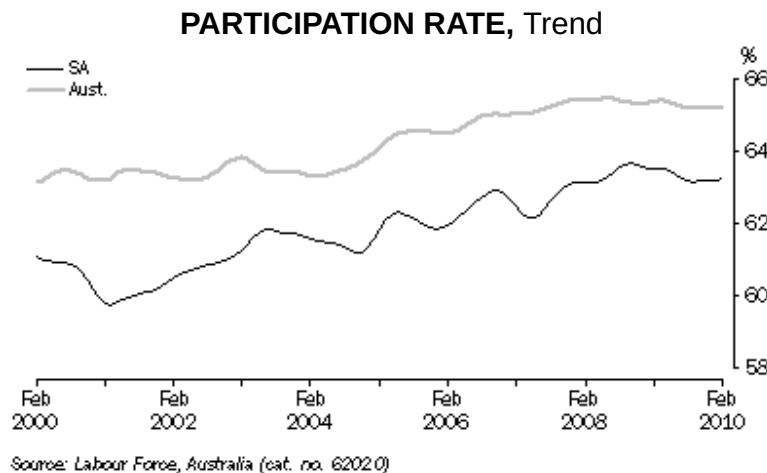
four months to be 5.0% in February 2010.

Nationally the trend unemployment rate for both males and females was 5.3% in February 2010.



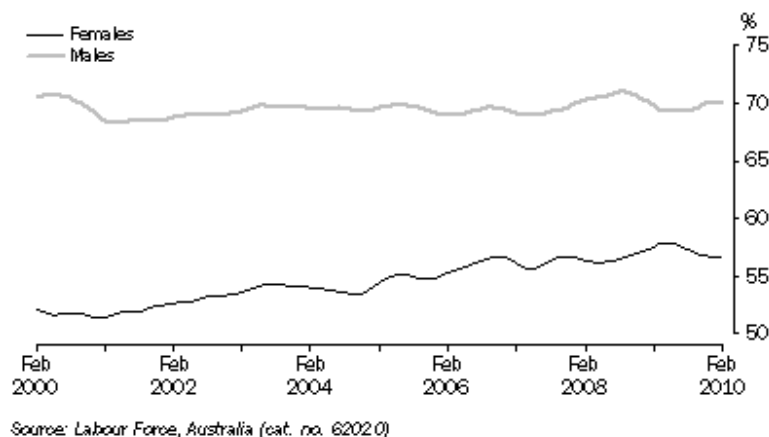
PARTICIPATION RATE

The trend estimate of the participation rate for South Australia has shown little movement over the last seven months and was 63.2% in February 2010. Australia's trend participation rate has also been relatively flat over the same period and was 65.2% in February 2010.



In South Australia, the participation rate for males remained steady at 70.1% in February 2010. The Australian participation rate for males rose slightly to 72.3% over the same period. From a peak of 57.9% in April and May 2009, the participation rate for South Australian females has fallen to be 56.6% in February 2010. The Australian female participation rate remained steady at 58.4% in February 2010.

PARTICIPATION RATE, Trend, South Australia



Incomes



INCOMES

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS

The trend estimate of average weekly (ordinary time) earnings for full-time adult persons in South Australia increased by 2.8% to \$1,123.20 in the 12 months to November 2009. Nationally, the trend estimate of average weekly (ordinary time) earnings increased 5.6% (up to \$1,223.30).

In the 12 months to November 2009, average weekly full-time earnings in South Australia for males increased by 3.8% to \$1,191.50. Nationally, male average weekly full-time earnings increased 6.1% to \$1,307.60. Female average weekly full-time earnings in South Australia peaked at \$1,014.7 in the February quarter of 2009. Since that time female average weekly earnings have been falling and were \$1,001.60 in November 2009; 0.2% lower than the corresponding quarter of the previous year. By contrast, in the 12 months to November 2009, average weekly full-time earnings nationally increased 4.6% to \$1,078.80.

FULL-TIME ORDINARY EARNINGS, South Australia: Trend



For information on the wage price index, please refer to the '[Price Indexes](#)' topic.

State Accounts



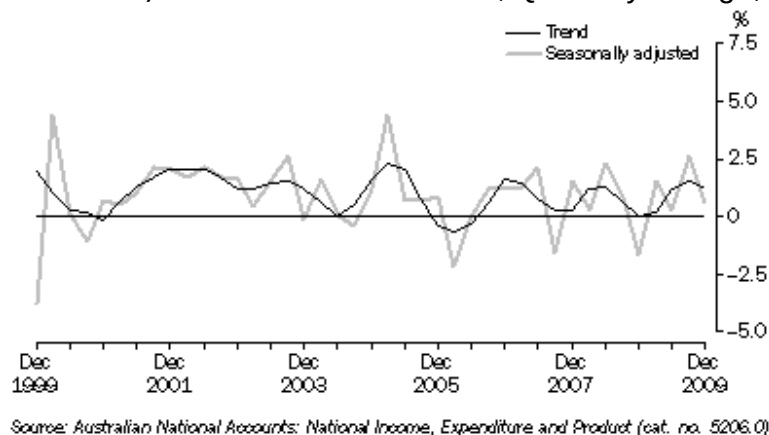
STATE ACCOUNTS

STATE ACCOUNTS

South Australia's December quarter 2009 State Final Demand in chain volume (trend) terms was \$20,857m; an increase of 1.2% from the September quarter 2009 and 4.1% over the corresponding quarter of the previous year. Australia's Domestic Final Demand grew 1.4% to \$316,876m over this period.

The only state or territory to record a decrease for the quarter was the Northern Territory (down 0.4%).

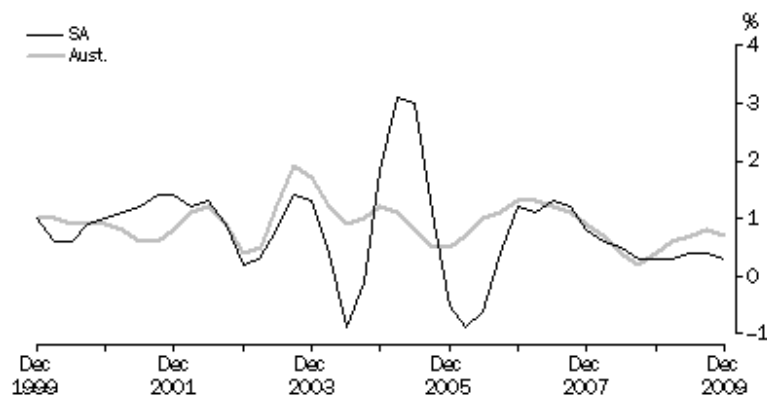
STATE FINAL DEMAND, Chain volume measures, Quarterly change, South Australia



HOUSEHOLD FINAL CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE (HFCE)

In chain volume (trend) terms, South Australia's December quarter 2009 HFCE was \$11,863m; an increase of 0.3% over the result recorded in the September quarter and representing 6.9% of the national total (\$171,004m). The value of HFCE Australia increased by 0.7% between the September and December quarters 2009.

HFCE, Chain volume measures, Trend, Quarterly change

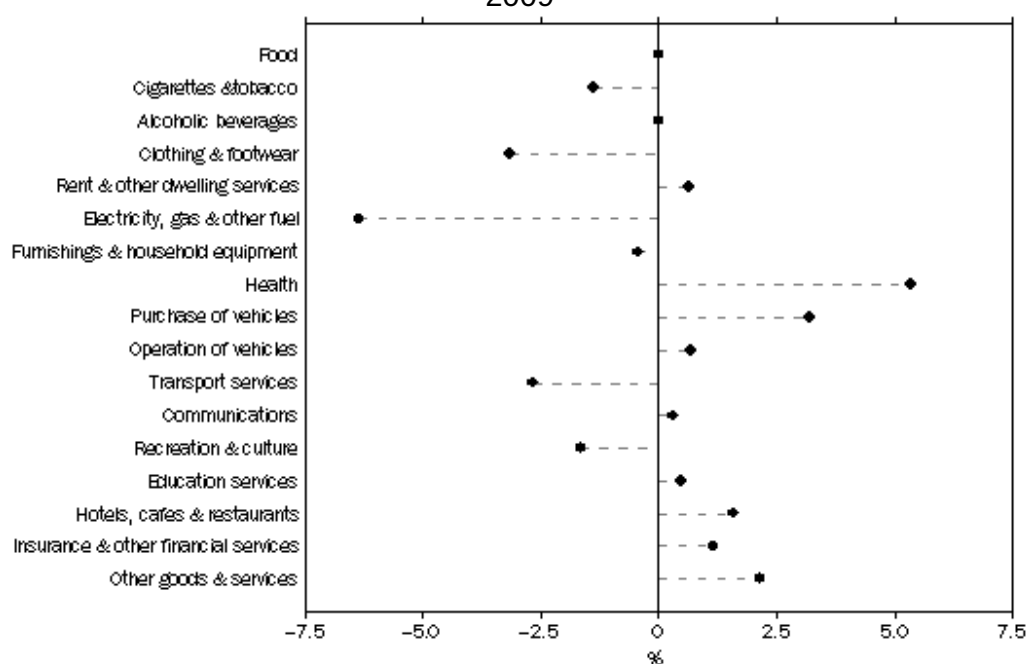


Source: Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product (cat. no. 5206.0)

The main contributors to growth in HFCE in South Australia for the December quarter 2009 were Health (up 5.4% from the September quarter 2009) and Purchase of vehicles (up 3.2%). Expenditure decreased on Electricity, gas and other fuel (down 6.4%), Clothing and footwear (down 3.1%) and Transport services (down 2.7%).

At the national level, expenditure increases were reported for almost all categories. The largest increases were for Purchase of vehicles (up 2.9% from the September quarter 2009), Health (up 1.5%), Insurance and other financial services (up 1.2%) and Hotels, cafes and restaurants (up 1.1%). The largest decrease in expenditure was for Transport services (down 1.3%) with smaller decreases recorded for Clothing and footwear (down 0.4%), Cigarettes and tobacco (down 0.3%) and Alcoholic beverages (down 0.2%).

HFCE, Chain volume measures, Trend, Quarterly change, South Australia - December Quarter 2009



Source: Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product (cat. no. 5206.0)

Consumption

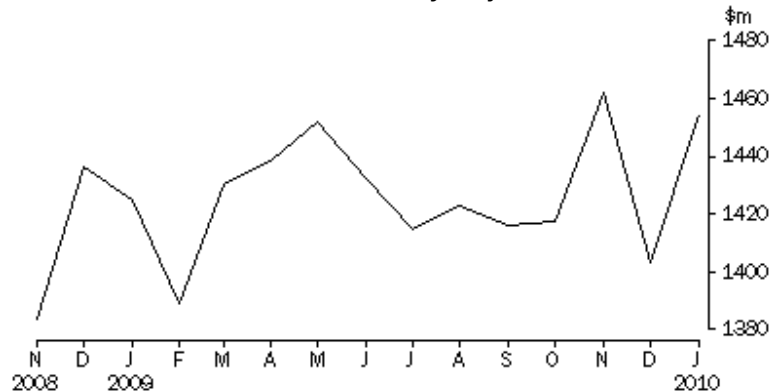


CONSUMPTION

RETAIL TRADE

After recording a fall of 4.0% in December 2009, South Australian retail sales rebounded to record the strongest growth of all the capitals in January 2010 (3.7%). The January sales estimate of \$1,454.6m was only 0.5% below the November high of \$1,462.2m. Nationally, retail turnover rose 1.2% to \$20,144.9m in January 2010. South Australia's contribution to total retail turnover in Australia rose slightly to 7.2%.

RETAIL TURNOVER, Seasonally adjusted, South Australia

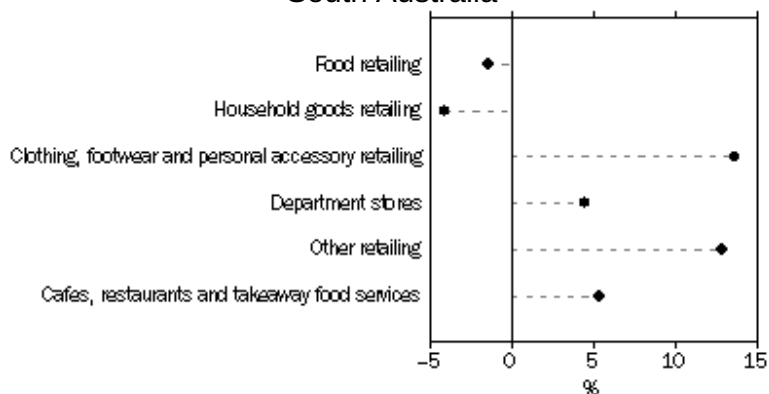


Source: Retail Trade, Australia (cat. no. 8501.0)

Comparing January 2010 with January 2009, the South Australian industry groups with the largest percentage increases in retail turnover (in seasonally adjusted terms) were Clothing, footwear and personal accessory retailing, which rose 13.6% to \$100.3m, and Other retailing, which rose 12.9% to \$216.8m.

Household goods retailing and Food retailing were the only South Australian industry groups to record a decrease in turnover over this period, falling 4.1% and 1.4% respectively.

RETAIL TURNOVER, Seasonally adjusted, Change from January 2009 to January 2010, South Australia



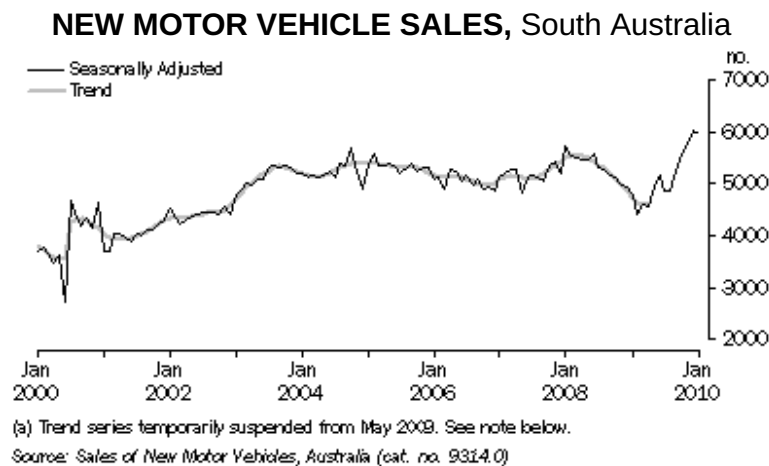
Source: Retail Trade, Australia (cat. no. 8501.0)

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE SALES

In January 2010, 3,367 new passenger vehicles and 5,944 new vehicles in total (in seasonally

adjusted terms) were sold in South Australia.

In Australia, 48,762 new passenger vehicles and 86,636 new vehicles in total (in seasonally adjusted terms) were sold in January 2010.



Note: Suspension of Trend Estimates

Following the Federal Government Budget in May 2009, the eligibility period for the Small Business and General Business Tax Break was extended to December 2009. The rebate level was also increased for small businesses, allowing eligible businesses to claim an increased tax deduction on the purchase of new motor vehicles.

The trend series attempts to measure the underlying behaviour in new motor vehicle sales. In the short term, this measurement may be significantly affected by unusual influences in the original and seasonally adjusted data, like those observed in May and June 2009. If the trend estimates in the publication were to be calculated without fully accounting for this irregular event, they would be likely to provide a misleading view of the underlying trend in new motor vehicle sales activity.

The new motor vehicle sales trend series has therefore been suspended from May 2009. The trend series will be reintroduced when more certainty emerges in the underlying behaviour of new car sales.

Investment



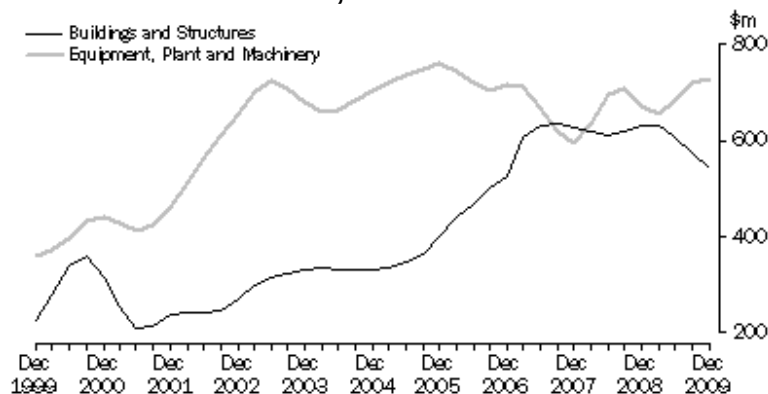
INVESTMENT

PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Between the September and December quarters of 2009, the South Australian chain volume (trend) estimate of private new capital expenditure fell by 2.2% to \$1,267m. Expenditure on Equipment, plant and machinery rose slightly to \$727m (0.8%), while expenditure on Buildings and structures fell \$34m (5.9%) to \$542m.

Over the same period, private new capital expenditure for Australia rose \$149m (0.5%) to \$27,223m. Expenditure on Equipment, plant and machinery rose 4.5%, whilst expenditure on Buildings and structures fell 3.4%.

PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, South Australia - Chain volume measures: Trend



Source: Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia (cat. no. 5625.0)

Note: Use of new classification

The frame information and sample design for the Survey of Private New Capital Expenditure have been improved by incorporation of the 2006 Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), (cat. no. 1292.0), replacing the 1993 ANZSIC, the inclusion of non-employed businesses which contribute significantly to economic activity and integration of updated size variable information for each business on the frame.

These changes have resulted in statistical impacts on our previously published historic data series. This publication and other Survey of Private New Capital Expenditure outputs released on or after November 26, 2009, feature revised historic series which align past published estimates to the estimates including statistical changes introduced from this quarter. An information paper (cat. no. 5625.0.55.001) describing these changes in more detail is available at www.abs.gov.au.

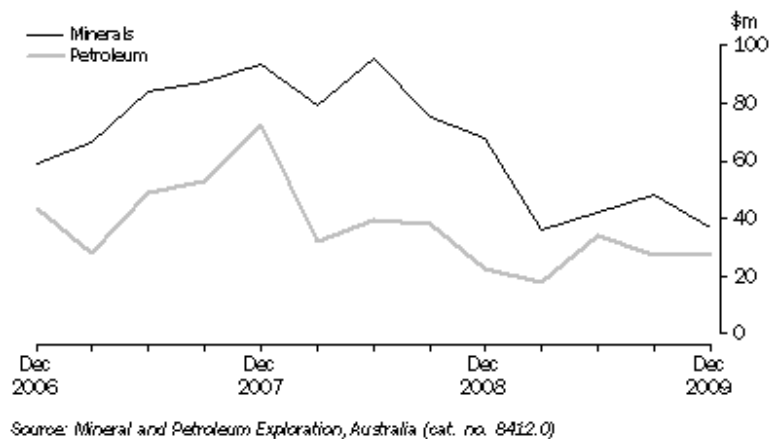
MINERAL AND PETROLEUM EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE

The value of South Australian mineral exploration expenditure (in original terms) was \$37.0m in the December quarter 2009; a decrease of 23.3% over the previous quarter and 61.1% below the peak recorded in the June quarter 2008 (\$95.2m). Australian expenditure on mineral exploration was \$578.8m in the December quarter 2009; an increase of 3.8% from the September quarter estimate (\$557.4m).

Exploration expenditure on Copper (\$13.4m) and Uranium (\$11.1m) accounted for approximately two thirds (66.2%) of all South Australian mineral exploration expenditure in the December quarter 2009. A further \$5.7m was spent on exploration for Gold.

Expenditure on petroleum exploration in South Australia in the December quarter 2009 was \$28.1m, up 3.7% from the previous quarter. Nationally, expenditure on petroleum exploration also increased (3.7%) rising from \$797.7m to \$827.0m over the same period.

MINERAL AND PETROLEUM EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE, Original, South Australia



Construction



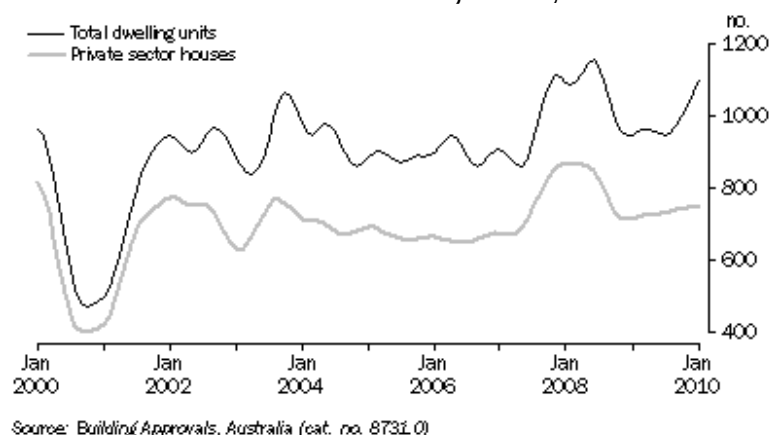
CONSTRUCTION

BUILDING APPROVALS

For the sixth consecutive month the number of dwelling units approved in South Australia (in trend terms) has increased, with 1,102 approvals recorded in January 2010. Nationally, the total number of dwelling units approved (in trend terms) rose 1.9% to 14,675, continuing the upward movement that began in February 2009.

The trend estimate for the number of private sector houses approved in South Australia in January 2010 rose slightly to 748.

DWELLING UNITS APPROVED, Trend, South Australia



In the year to January 2010, the total number of dwelling units approved in South Australia fell 8.9% over the previous year. Decreases occurred across all statistical divisions with the Northern Statistical Division recording the largest decrease (24.4%).

DWELLING UNITS APPROVED, by Statistical Division, Original, South Australia

Year ended January 2009

Year ended January 2010

	Dwelling units no.	Change over previous year %	Dwelling units no.	Change over previous year %
Adelaide	8 853	8.4	8 433	-4.7
Outer Adelaide	1 733	9.8	1 498	-13.6
Yorke and Lower North	606	11.4	463	-23.6
Murray Lands	508	-23.7	433	-14.8
South East	536	41.8	412	-23.1
Eyre	314	15.0	263	-16.2
Northern	480	0.2	363	-24.4
South Australia	13 030	7.8	11 865	-8.9

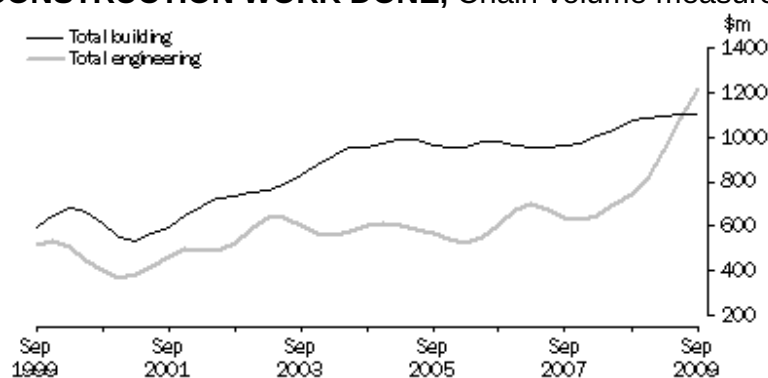
Source: Building Approvals, Australia - data available on request

[Map of South Australia's Statistical Divisions](#) (PDF 2.44MB)

CONSTRUCTION WORK DONE

In the September quarter 2009, the total value of building work done (in trend terms) in South Australia remained steady at \$1,101.7m. The trend estimate for the value of engineering work done in the September quarter 2009 was \$1,217.5m, an increase of 11.9% from the June quarter (\$1,087.6m). This is the seventh consecutive increase in this series with the September quarter estimate 93.3% higher than the value recorded in the December quarter 2007.

VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK DONE, Chain volume measures - SA: Trend



Source: Building Activity, Australia (cat. no. 8752.0)
Engineering Construction Activity, Australia (cat. no. 8762.0)

Price Indexes



PRICE INDEXES

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[Consumer price index](#)

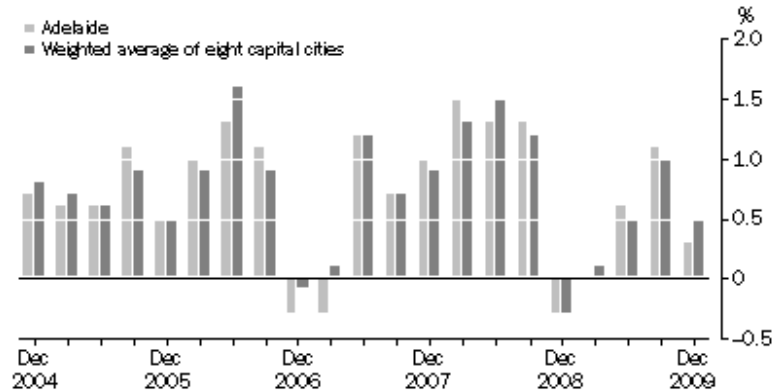
[Wage price index](#)

House price index

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The all groups consumer price index (CPI) for Adelaide rose 0.3% during the December quarter 2009, while the weighted average of the eight capital cities increased by 0.5% in the same period. Adelaide's CPI increased by 2.0% in the year ending December quarter 2009, compared with a 2.1% rise in the weighted average of the eight capital cities.

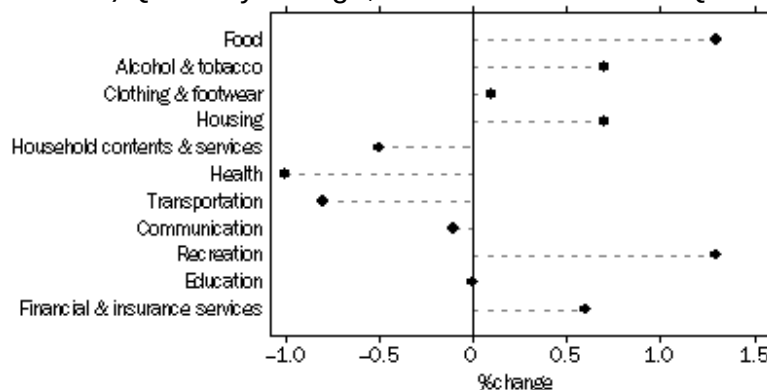
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - ALL GROUPS, Quarterly change



Source: Consumer Price Index, Australia (cat. no. 6401.0)

Adelaide's largest percentage increases in prices from the previous quarter were in the areas of Food (1.3%) and Recreation (1.3%). The largest decreases in prices from the previous quarter were for Health (1.0%) and Transportation (0.8%).

CPI GROUPS, Quarterly change, Adelaide - December Quarter 2009

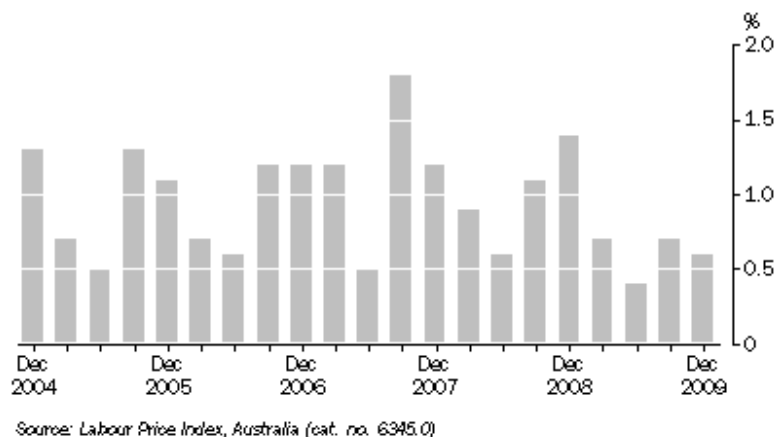


Source: Consumer Price Index, Australia (cat. no. 6401.0)

WAGE PRICE INDEX

The wage price index for all employee jobs in South Australia increased by 0.6% (in original terms) between the September and December quarters 2009. This was less than the national increase of 0.7% over the same period.

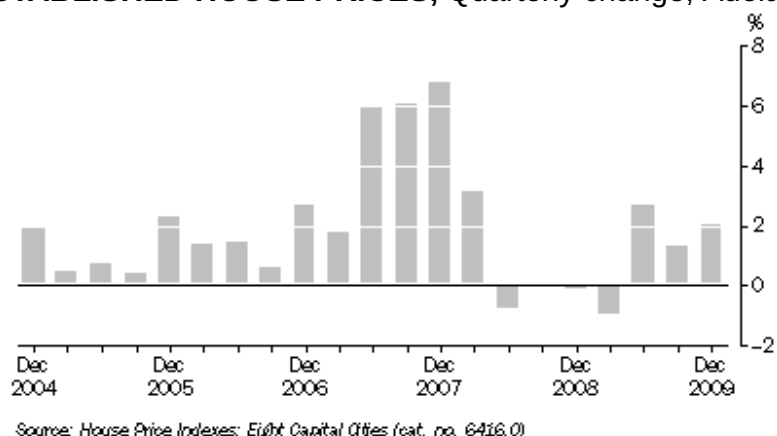
WAGE PRICE INDEX QUARTERLY CHANGES, Total hourly rates of pay excluding bonuses - Original : South Australia



HOUSE PRICE INDEX

Preliminary estimates show that, for the third consecutive quarter, the price index for established houses for Adelaide (in original terms) has increased with the December quarter 2009 2.1% higher than the previous quarter. Price rises were also recorded in all other capital cities between the September and December quarters 2009 resulting in an increase in the price index for the weighted average of the eight capital cities of 5.2% over this period. Adelaide (2.1%) and Canberra (3.6%) were the capitals with the smallest increases whilst Melbourne (6.8%) recorded the largest increase.

ESTABLISHED HOUSE PRICES, Quarterly change, Adelaide



Over the year to the December quarter 2009, preliminary estimates show the price index for established houses for Adelaide rose 5.1%, while the weighted average of the eight capital cities increased 13.6%. Melbourne (19.7%) and Darwin (13.6%) recorded the largest increases whilst Adelaide's increase of 5.1% was the lowest of all the capital cities.

Housing Finance

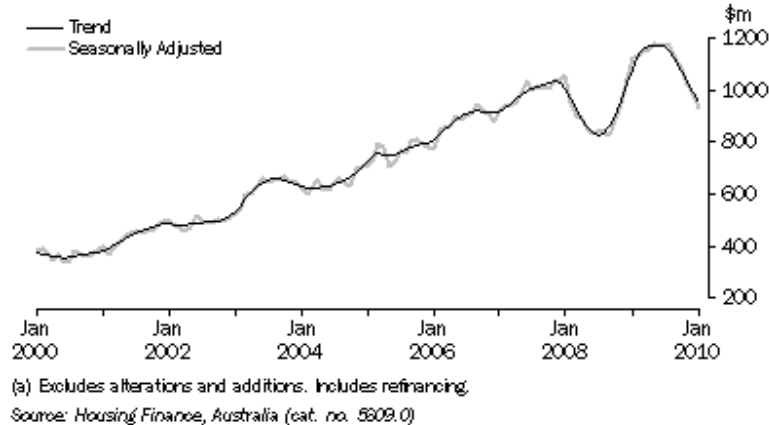


HOUSING FINANCE

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS

The trend estimate of the total value of housing finance commitments (owner occupation) in South Australia in January 2010 was \$956m, a decrease of 3.7% from December 2009 (\$993m) and the seventh consecutive decrease since the peak of \$1,176m recorded in June 2009. As a result of these decreases, the January 2010 estimate has fallen back to the level of November 2008. Nationally, the value of housing finance commitments for owner occupation was \$15,366m in January 2010; 10.1% lower than the peak recorded in July 2009 (\$17,095m).

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS (OWNER OCCUPATION) (a), South Australia



In January 2010, the average home loan size for owner occupied dwellings in South Australia was \$223,600, substantially lower than the average home loan size for Australia (\$282,800).

In January 2010, the average loan commitment for first home buyers in South Australia rose slightly to \$242,700; an increase of 0.1% over the December estimate and 10.3% higher than the average loan size for non-first home buyers (\$220,000). The average loan commitment of first home buyers is now only 9.5% below the peak of March 2009 (\$268,300).

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS (OWNER OCCUPATION) (a), Average loan size, Original, South Australia



For information on the house price index, please refer to the '[Price Indexes](#)' topic.

International Merchandise Trade



INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS

On a recorded trade basis, the value of South Australia's exports in January 2010 was \$482m; a decrease of 28.8% over December 2009 (\$676m) and 16.4% lower than the value recorded in January 2009 (\$577m).

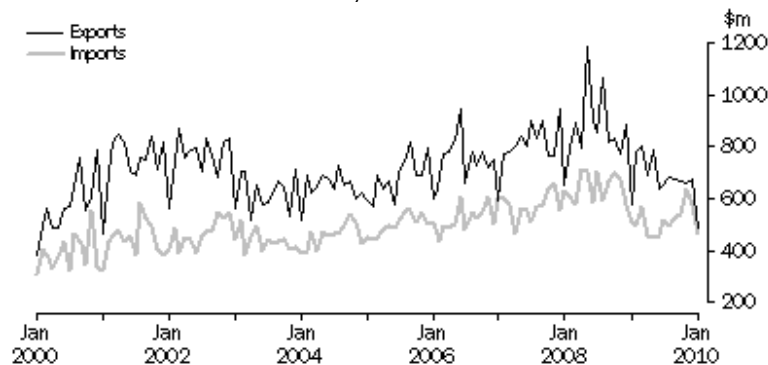
In January 2009, the export of wine (16.0%), wheat (11.4%) and copper (11.1%) accounted for approximately 40% of all South Australian exports. In January 2010 the export of wine (15.5%), wheat (10.9%) and iron ore (10.4%) were the most significant commodities exported. The contribution of copper had fallen to 4.2%.

The value of Australian merchandise exports for January 2010 was \$14,422m; 16.9% lower than the corresponding month of the previous year (\$17,354m).

The value of South Australian merchandise imports fell to \$467m in January 2010. This estimate represents a decrease of 19.5% over December 2009 (\$581m) and is 9.0% lower than the value recorded in January 2009 (\$514m).

The value of Australian merchandise imports for January 2010 was \$15,387m; a decrease of 12.7% from the previous month and 10.4% lower than the value recorded in January of the previous year (\$17,165m).

VALUE OF INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE EXPORTS AND IMPORTS (a), on a recorded trade basis, South Australia



(a) Exports where the final stage of production or manufacture occurs in South Australia.

Source: *International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia* (cat. no. 5368.0)

Water



WATER

RAINFALL

According to the Bureau of Meteorology's Seasonal Climate Summary for South Australia, Summer 2009-10 delivered temperatures well above average with variable rainfall across districts.

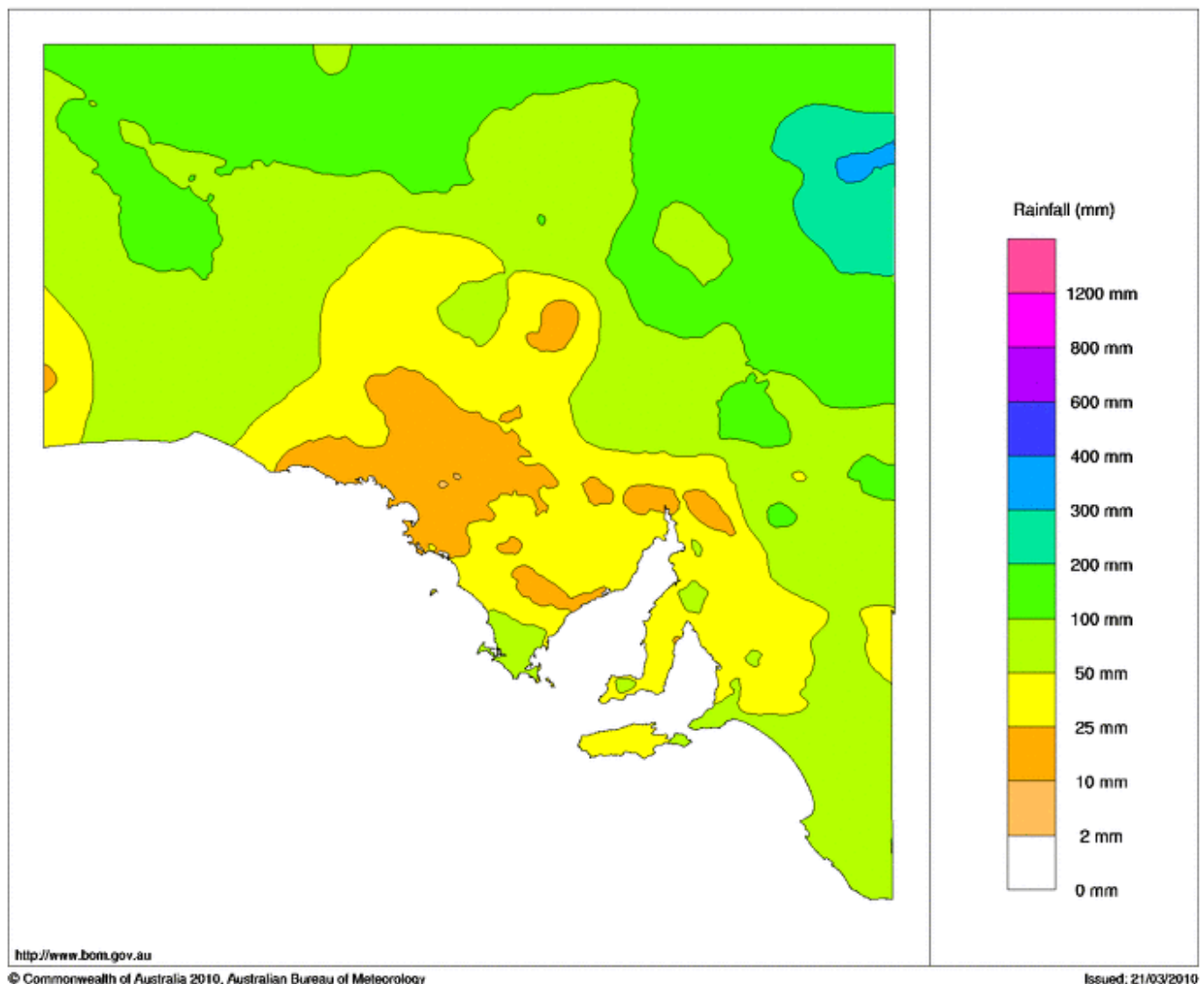
Summer rainfall totals across most of South Australia were generally near average, with the exception of the north east which had above average rainfall totals. Pastoral districts produced above average rainfall in December and particularly through February which resulted in a wetter than average summer season.

Agricultural districts further south remained near average, while the northern Eyre Peninsula and the Mount Lofty and Southern Flinders ranges had below average summer rainfall as a whole.

Rainfall totals in the pastoral areas were extremely variable ranging from 20mm to 100mm, with higher localised totals at some locations of over 150mm. Moomba Airport recorded South Australia's highest summer rainfall of 270.4mm, most of this occurring during February. This season represented Moomba's third wettest summer since records began in 1972.

South Australian Rainfall Totals (mm) 1 December 2009 to 28 February 2010

Product of the National Climate Centre

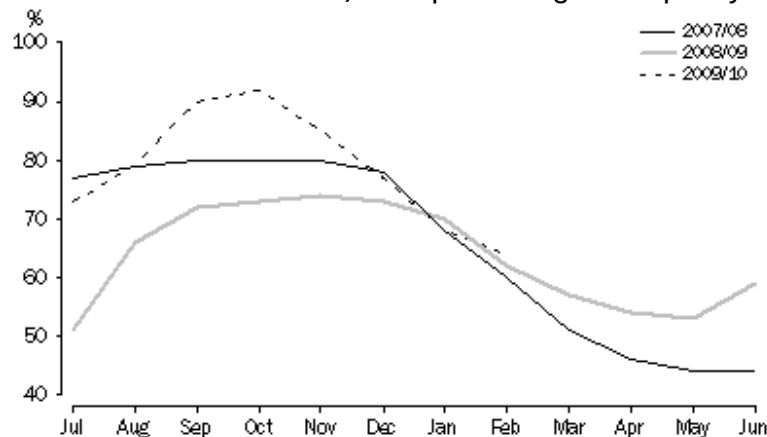


Source: 3-monthly rainfall anomalies for South Australia, Australian Bureau of Meteorology.

RESERVOIR LEVELS

The total water storage in Adelaide's reservoirs at the end of February 2010 was 64% of capacity; slightly higher than the level available in February 2009 (62%) and higher again than February 2008 (60%).

TOTAL RESERVOIR STORAGE, As a percentage of capacity - Adelaide



Source: SA Water daily reservoir levels

About this Release

SA Stats provides an overview of the South Australian population and economy. The publication is updated on a monthly basis, with most releases also featuring an article that provides a South Australian focus on economic, social and environmental issues.

Explanatory Notes are not included in SA Stats in the form found in other Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) publications. Readers are directed to the Explanatory Notes contained in related ABS publications.

Burial and cremation trends in SA (Feature Article)

FEATURE ARTICLE: BURIAL AND CREMATION TRENDS IN SA

INTRODUCTION

The South Australian government expects the metropolitan population to increase by over half a million people in the next 30 years (Government of South Australia, 2010). This will put pressure on the availability of land for residential, commercial and recreational use and may also affect the future requirements for cemetery development.

ABS projections used by the South Australian Government in their state Strategic Plan and the 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide indicate that the number of deaths each year in South Australia may nearly double from the current 12,500 to 23,000 by 2056. The two major providers of burial and cremation services in Adelaide; the Adelaide Cemeteries Authority (ACA; state government owned) and Centennial Park Cemetery Authority (CPCA; local government owned), together conduct about 56% of burials and cremations in South Australia

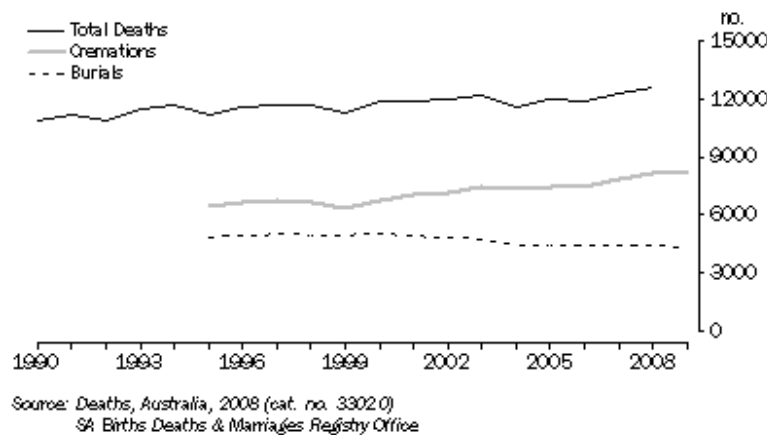
and about 75% of these services in Adelaide. Both organisations expect that there will be a shortage of land for first-time burials within the time-frame of the state government plans. (ACA 2009; CPCA 2009)

This article uses data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the South Australian Births, Deaths And Marriages Registration Office and industry data collated by Centennial Park Cemetery Authority. The population projections for South Australia are reviewed in the context of historical trends for burials and cremations. The projected burial numbers in South Australia in 2056 are considered and the rate of land used for burials is calculated.

Historical trends

The number of deaths each year in South Australia has slowly increased from about 11,000 deaths per year in the early 1990's to about 12,600 deaths in 2008 which is an average annual growth of 0.8%. Total state cremations have increased from about 6,400 in 1995 to about 8,250 in 2009. The South Australian Births Deaths and Marriages Registration Office estimates that burials in South Australia have decreased from about 4,900 per year in 1995 to 4,300 in 2009.

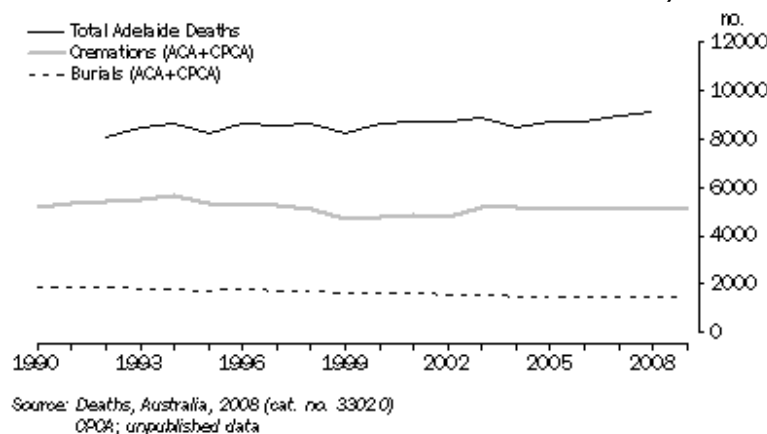
DEATHS, CREMATIONS AND BURIALS, South Australia



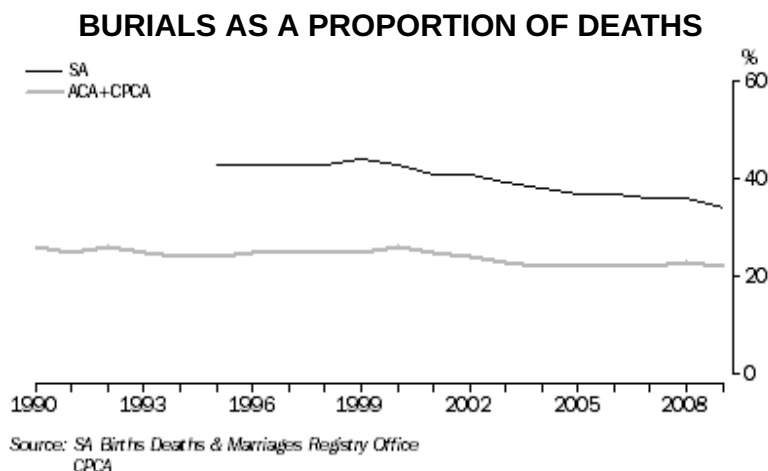
Deaths recorded in the Adelaide statistical division has increased from about 8,000 in 1992 to about 9,100 in 2008 although as a percentage of state deaths this has remained reasonably constant at about 73%.

Total cremations performed by ACA and CPCA have fluctuated slightly around an average of about 5,150 per year. Total burials performed by ACA and CPCA has declined from about 1,800 burials per year in the early 1990's to about 1,450 burials in 2009.

CREMATIONS AND BURIALS BY ACA & CPCA, Adelaide



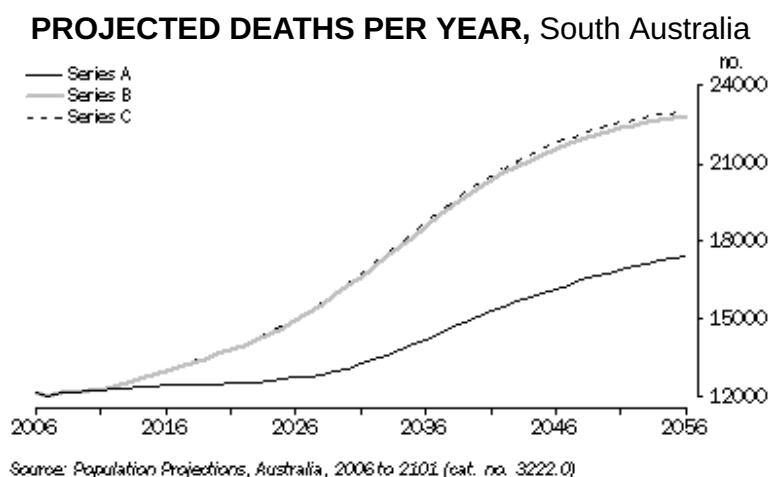
The proportion of burials in South Australia has slowly decreased from 43% in 1995 to 34% in 2009. This contrasts with the combined ACA and CPCA totals where the proportion has only changed slightly with a decrease from about 25% to 22% over the same period. The Adelaide proportion is consistent with the experience in the United Kingdom and other capital cities in Australia where between 20 to 25 percent of metropolitan deaths result in burials while the remainder are cremated (CPCA, 2009).



Projections

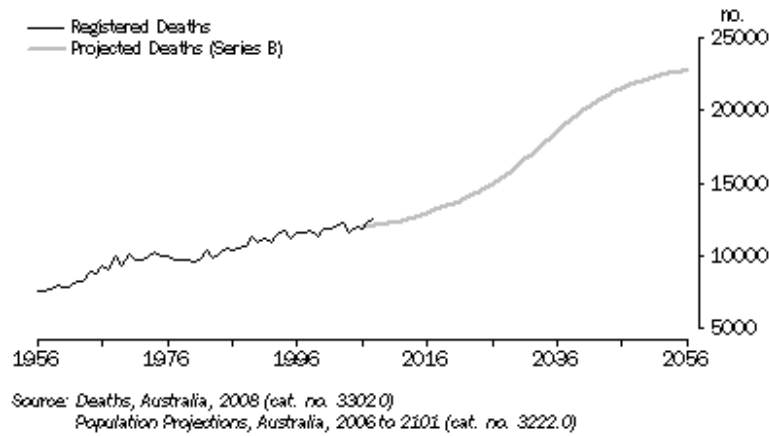
The ABS publishes population projections to illustrate the change in population that would occur if certain assumptions about future levels of fertility, mortality, internal migration and overseas migration were to prevail over the projection period. For more information, see [Population Projections, Australia, 2006 to 2101](#) (cat. no. 3222.0).

For South Australia, the number of deaths per year is projected to increase from about 12,500 in 2009 to between 17,500 and 23,000 by 2056.



There has been a steady increase in the number of deaths per year since 1956 and it has been projected that this rate will continue to slowly increase to about 14,700 deaths per year in 2025. For the following 20 years the number of deaths is projected to increase more rapidly as the 'baby boomers' age and by 2056 it is projected that the rate of increase will slow with the total number being approximately twice present values in both Series B and Series C estimates.

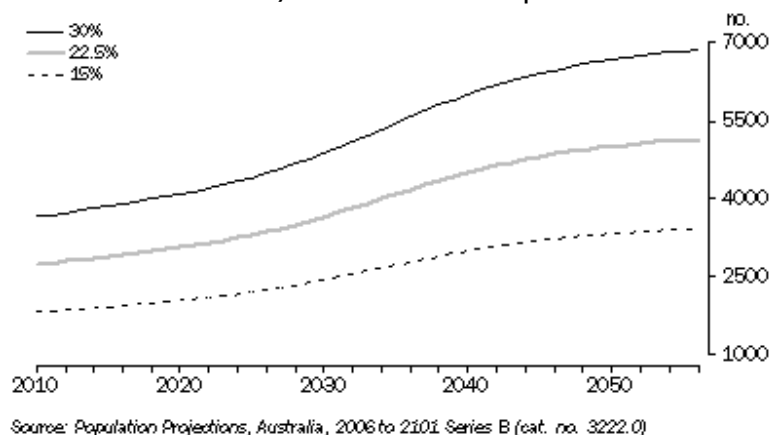
ACTUAL AND PROJECTED DEATHS, South Australia



It can be expected that the increase in deaths will also result in an increase in the number of burials per year. As shown earlier in this article, the proportion of burials is 34% in South Australia and 22% in Adelaide. This proportion has been decreasing over the last 20 years and may continue to decrease.

As the proportion of burials may continue to slowly decline, three different burial proportions have been used to project possible high, medium and low numbers of future burials. If the proportion only declines slightly from the current SA proportion then the number of burials in 2056 is projected to be 6,850. If the proportion declines to about the metropolitan proportion of 22%, the number of burials in 2056 is projected to be about 5,150; and if the proportion declines substantially to 15%, the number of burials in 2056 is projected to be about 3,400.

PROJECTED BURIALS PER YEAR, For Different Proportions of Burials - South Australia



Land Availability

There is no standard density of burial plots in cemeteries in South Australia. As a guide, CPCA currently has approximately 2,300 plots per hectare allowing for space between plots and infrastructure. It is possible to have multiple burials per plot and to reuse plots after the expiration of licences (usually between 50 and 99 years) but there is cultural resistance to this in some community sectors.

Based on the burial projections discussed in the previous section, and using the CPCA density of burials, it is estimated that at least 2 hectares of burial land will be required in South Australia each year. The availability of cemetery land in the north of Adelaide and regional South Australia, reuse of burial plots, changing community requirements and the emergence of new technologies may reduce the requirement for new cemetery land.

Summary

Over the last 20 years the number of deaths in South Australia has increased by about 14%, cremations have increased about 29% and burials have decreased about 15%. The proportion of burials has been decreasing and is currently about 34% of state deaths. This proportion is substantially lower at 22% for the two major cemetery and crematoria providers in Adelaide.

The number of deaths each year is projected to double by 2056 from current levels and may equate to about 5,000-7,000 burials and an annual requirement of at least 2 hectares of land.

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More land needed for cemeteries as population expands (Media Release)

March 30, 2010	MEDIA RELEASE Embargo: 11.30 am (CANBERRA TIME) 30/03/2010	31/2010
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More land needed for cemeteries as population expands

Even with a gradual shift to cremations, South Australia's population growth will be putting pressure on cemetery space according to a report released today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

The South Australian government expects the metropolitan population to increase by over half a million people in the next 30 years. This will put pressure on land availability and may affect the future requirements for cemetery development.

Over the last 20 years there has been a gradual increase in the number of cremations which

has resulted in the proportion of burials in South Australia slowly decreasing.

In Adelaide, the two major providers of burial and cremation services are the Adelaide Cemeteries Authority and Centennial Park Cemetery Authority.

Together they conduct about 56% of burials and cremations in South Australia and about 75% of these services in Adelaide. Burials represent 22% of services they provide compared with 34% burials for all South Australian providers.

The SA Births Deaths and Marriages Registry Office estimates that there were about 4,300 burials in South Australia in 2009. By 2056 it is projected that about 5,000-7,000 burials will be performed annually resulting in a requirement each year of at least 2 hectares of land.

The requirement for new cemetery land may be reduced by current availability in the north of Adelaide and regional South Australia and by the reuse of burial plots, changing community requirements and the emergence of new technologies.

The full article and South Australian specific updates on State Accounts, Retail Trade, Average Weekly Earnings and Housing Finance Commitments can be found in the March edition of SA Stats (cat. no. 1345.4) on the ABS web site.

Media Note:

When reporting ABS data the Australian Bureau of Statistics (or ABS) must be attributed as the source.